



Connecticut Farm Bureau Association
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March 7, 2011

Testimony in Support of:

H. B. No. 6262 AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

Submitted by: Donald Tuller, President, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, a statewide nonprofit membership organization of over 5,000 families dedicated to farming and the future of Connecticut agriculture.

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and members of the Environment Committee:

The members of the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association urge your support for Raised Bill No. 6262 AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT. The changes that were made to the Community Investment Act, to help the Connecticut Dairy Industry need to be extended, and that is the intent of this bill. The price that Connecticut dairy farmers receive for their milk is dependent on a federal formula that does not currently take into account the higher costs that dairy farmers in the Northeast face. We did assume that progress was going to be made in the last 20 months to correct the problem on a Federal level. This did not occur. That is why we are seeking to remove the sunset, and this bill does that. The Connecticut dairy industry is still the backbone on Connecticut Agriculture, providing the critical mass in regard to agricultural infrastructure that the rest of Connecticut agriculture depends on. Should the price that farmers receive improve enough, relative to the price of inputs, the payments to farmers would cease, based on the formula in the program. We would just as soon not be making this request, but this program is still desperately needed and we urge you to support this proposed legislation.

Thank you: Don Tuller President of the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association